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**Managing files in a repository** / Adding a file to a repository using the command line

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# Adding a file to a repository using the command line

**MAC** | **WINDOWS** | **LINUX**

You can upload an existing file to a GitHub repository using the command line.

> **Tip:** You can also add an existing file to a repository from the GitHub website.

This procedure assumes you've already:

- Created a repository on GitHub, or have an existing repository owned by someone else you'd like to contribute to
- Cloned the repository locally on your computer

> **Warning:** Never `git add`, `commit`, or `push` sensitive information to a remote repository. Sensitive information can include, but is not limited to:
>
> - Passwords
> - SSH keys
> - AWS access keys
> - API keys
> - Credit card numbers
> - PIN numbers
>
> For more information, see "Removing sensitive data from a repository."

**1** On your computer, move the file you'd like to upload to GitHub into the local directory that was created when you cloned the repository.

**2** Open Git Bash.

**3** Change the current working directory to your local repository.

**4** Stage the file for commit to your local repository.

```
$ git add .
# Adds the file to your local repository and stages it for commit. To unstage
a file, use 'git reset HEAD YOUR-FILE'.
```

**5** Commit the file that you've staged in your local repository.

```
$ git commit -m "Add existing file"
# Commits the tracked changes and prepares them to be pushed to a remote
repository. To remove this commit and modify the file, use 'git reset --soft
HEAD~1' and commit and add the file again.
```

**6** Push the changes in your local repository to GitHub.

```
$ git push origin your-branch
# Pushes the changes in your local repository up to the remote repository you
```

## Article versions

GitHub.com
GitHub Enterprise 2.15
GitHub Enterprise 2.14
GitHub Enterprise 2.13
GitHub Enterprise 2.12

```
    specified as the origin
```

## Further reading

"Creating new files"

"Adding an existing project to GitHub using the command line"

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